

RUSH HOUR

United States Coast Guard Cutter RUSH (WHEC 723)

Special points of interest:

- RUSH successfully completed Tailored Annual Cutter Training (TACT) 2007!
- Fair winds and following seas to the RUSH Crewmembers that volunteered to take PATFORSWA jobs! You will be dearly missed.
- Look for your loved ones "Shout Out" on page 5!

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Photo by BM3 Hurst

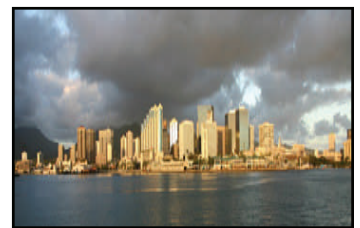
USCGC RUSH Departs Honolulu for TACT and ALPAT 2007/2008

November 13, 2007 - So, here we are again, only this time it took eight months of "blood, sweat, and tears" to get here. From totally rebuilding a Main Diesel Engine to rebuilding both Boilers. The Engineering Department literally worked around the clock to ensure RUSH was not only ready to sail for Tailored Annual Cutter Training (TACT), but that she is also ready to meet the demand of the cutter fleet for another 10 years...Bravo Zulu Engineers!

After a successful week long engine trial off the south coast of Oahu, followed by a successful Helicopter Standardization Training Visit (STAN), in early October. RUSH was now ready to set sail for San Diego to participate in TACT. For months,

the anticipation of TACT, as well as, the mental preparation for another deployment during the holiday season was weighing heavy on the minds of the crew. Those crew members that had planned to be home for the holiday's were now quickly scrambling to cancel holiday plans. Distractions aside, RUSH met her updated sail date of 13 November and steamed east towards San Diego, leaving the beautiful weather of Hawaii to wait our return in February.

Once underway from Honolulu, RUSH went immediately into training mode for the 8 day transit. It had been nearly 2 years since the last TACT visit. Most of the 170 crew members had never even heard the word TACT before. During the transit,



RUSH perfected both inport and underway drills like: General Emergencies and General Quarters. There were doubts of the crews readiness early on, but as we neared the coast of California the motivation picked up and the metamorphosis began!

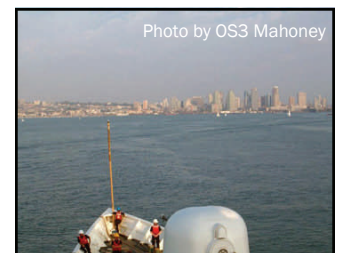


Photo by OS3 Mahoney

NAVSTA San Diego, CA...Let The Fun and Games of TACT Begin!

November 21, 2007 - Break out the fowl weather gear...It's cold here! Apart from the weather (we are spoiled living in Hawaii) RUSH arrived in San Diego the day before Thanksgiving, which provided the crew a 4-day weekend to recharge their batteries. TACT started

Monday!

So, what is TACT? TACT is a 3-week long US Navy and US Coast Guard run training evaluation. During this training, RUSH crew members are expected to effectively complete a series of drills and scenarios in an effort to hone their damage

control, navigation, engineering, and seamanship skills. The days are long and the evaluators are relentless! The first week is all inport and the second and third weeks are underway. Relief came in the form of the liberty pipe, usually around 1600 or...(cont. on next page)



Replenishment at Sea (RAS) during TACT 2007. Photo by DCC Hayes



Sunset over Point Loma, CA.. Photo by GM2 Eystad

Let The Fun and Games of TACT Begin! (Cont.)

...1700. This pipe was very much anticipated and would bring smiles to the faces of even the most exhausted people on board.

During our 'free time', you could often catch RUSH crew members boarding the trolley outside the base entrance. The usual destination...Downtown or Old Town. There is so much to do in San Diego, I almost wish TACT was longer than 3 weeks. (I'll probably catch some flack for that comment later.) The crew morale events, organized by LTJG Pagarigan, were very

much appreciated and memorable. "Lunch with Shamu" was especially nice, because it allowed us to be "kids" again. The dining options in San Diego were endless, especially the authentic Mexican food on every corner. And even though liberty on the weekdays would expire at 2200, most of the crew took full advantage of all that San Diego had to offer. Those that were lucky enough to have family in the Southern California area enjoyed 3 weeks of family time, including the opportunity to spend Thanksgiv-

ing with their loved ones. A special thanks to all the crewmembers that opened their homes to their shipmates looking for a family to spend Thanksgiving with.

So, back to TACT. RUSH was underway on December 9th and would complete the next 5 days at sea for the final portion of TACT. The out briefs with the Captain, by our "guests" were positive, and the crew of RUSH is to be commended on their hard work and dedication! RUSH successfully passed TACT...Bravo Zulu Team RUSH!

*"O Canada!
Our home and
native land!
True patriot love
in all thy sons
command."*

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

December 19, 2007 - With the lights of San Diego behind us and TACT complete, RUSH's first taste of ALPAT 2007/08 begins with a port call to Victoria, British Columbia.

What a beautiful city Victoria is! Victoria is the western most city in all of Canada, situated on the Strait of Juan da Fuca, across from Port Angeles, WA. Captain James Cook is credited with being the first European to set foot in Victoria, establishing the city as a fur trading post.

As with any port call, the minute the brow is over and liberty is piped RUSH crew members scatter until the morning of departure. However, it doesn't take much to bring the crew back together, even if they try to keep to themselves. Victoria was no different. Both nights, a good crowd of RUSH sailors could be located at *Irish Times Pub*. The incredible live music and cozy atmosphere was so welcoming. If you stayed long enough, then there was a good chance you heard the vocals of

OS1 William McCown. Very impressive! For those that were looking for their sports fix. The trip to Mount Washington for skiing was unbelievable! You can't beat \$35 roundtrip bus fare and a military discount lift ticket for \$25. Best kept secret indeed! Finally, the last night was hockey night. The Victoria Salmon Kings, a minor league hockey team, played the Alaska Aces. LTJG McCormack's cheering wasn't enough for an Alaska rally, as Victoria won 9-2.



The Parliament House in Victoria, BC. Photo by ET2 Peacock



Photo by SN Pepin

The Inside Passage

December 23-27, 2007 - This transit had to be one of the most unbelievable experiences for the sailors of RUSH! The initial planning for this portion of the transit was stressful, due to last minute changes. In the end; however, it was certainly breathtaking and well worth the extra planning!

After we departed Victoria, we

transited the calm waters between Vancouver Island and mainland British Columbia, enroute to Juneau, AK. Due to the close proximity to land, many watch standers were pushed to their limits, standing what seemed like port and starboard watches. In the end, the pictures that your loved ones will share upon RUSH's return

to Hawaii, will tell the story of beauty the Inside Passage is all about. Every summer, cruise ships ferry thousands of paying customers through the very same waters RUSH charted for this transit. Although darkness certainly ruled the sky during the winter, I would highly recommend a summer time transit to see all that the Inside Passage has to offer. (next page)

The Inside Passage (Cont.)

The most spectacular and challenging portion of the transit was Discovery Passage and Seymour Narrows. ENS Mulder experienced first hand the true definition of "crabbing" when he was steering the ship 30-40 degrees off base course to maintain the charted heading. Yikes! The currents in this area are notorious and only become more complex with additional hurdles, like vessel traffic, are added. ENS Germuska found out after relieving ENS Mulder that Rule 9, "Narrow Chan-

nels", means nothing to a man and his fishing boat. The boat eventually moved, just in time, and RUSH continued on.

During the next 5-days, RUSH was greeted in the morning with the sun rising in the south and setting in the south; snow capped mountains on either side that seemed to begin and end at the waters edge; trees that seem to reach out and touch RUSH's bridge wing; and a cold that stung any exposed extremity. When you weren't standing watch, crewmembers

were fighting for prime photo taking spots...Braving the cold air to get that one "Ansel Adams' photo. One word can only describe this experience: BREATHTAKING!



CGC RUSH underway in the Inside Passage. Photo by SN Tyler Pepin

Underway Christmas 2007: Groundhog Day

December 24-25, 2007 - This year, like last, Captain Bergeron and LTJG Pagarigan scheduled the now famous "Yankee Swap" gift exchange for Christmas Eve. Participation was voluntary and the price limit for a gift was \$10. Roughly 40 crew members participated, but the infamous "baked beans and coke" did not make a reappearance. Word on the street is that FS1 Martinez is responsible for that gift last year. Anyway, the big

gift for the night was a NERF gun, which OSC McFee finally stole from SN Healy. The big loser for the night was a full box of popcorn that OS3 Stacy opened. If you need any popcorn, see OS3 Stacy. I'm sure she can spare a few bags!

At 1000 on Christmas morning, LTJG Pagarigan gathered the gifts sent by loving family members and passed them to waiting crewmembers. The gifts

were received with anticipation, as they had been locked in the CO's Flag Cabin for over a month. Later that day, the CPO Mess, along with the assistance of the Wardroom, cooked and served Christmas dinner for the entire crew of RUSH. The significance was to show their appreciation for the hard work the crew puts forth each day.

*"Twas the night
before Christmas,
when all through
the house not a
creature was
stirring, not even
a mouse"*

HIFR with a HH-60 "Jayhawk"

December 26, 2007 - So, what is a HIFR? HIFR stands for *Helicopter in Flight Refuel*. HIFR's are conducted when the seas are too rough for a landing to refuel or if the helicopter is too big for the flight deck. A HIFR is accomplished by hovering the helicopter over the flight deck and lowering the helicopters hoist cable to the flight deck crew. The deck crew attaches the fuel hose to the hoist, and

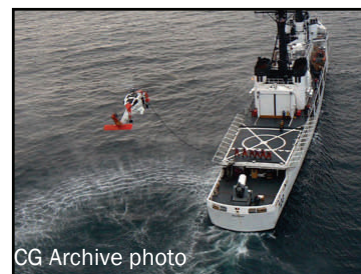
the helicopter raises the hose to the cabin door, where the flight mechanic will attach the hose to an internal fueling receptacle. Once the hose is connected, RUSH begins pumping fuel up into the helicopter. When enough fuel has been transferred, the process is reversed and the hose lowered back to the flight deck.

AIRSTA Sitka was in need of

some much needed HIFR training and RUSH was eager to qualify additional flight deck personnel. So, with the temperature near freezing and snowing. RUSH conducted two HIFR's flawlessly under the watchful eye AIRSTA Sitka's Commanding Officer, near by in another helicopter. Bravo Zulu flight deck crew, for braving the weather and completing the evolution safely!



Photo by ET2 Smith



CG Archive photo



CG STA Juneau, AK. Photo by ENS Germuska



Waterfront of Juneau, AK. Photo by BM3 Hurst

Juneau, AK : When it snows, it snows!

December 27, 2007 - Arrival to the pier of CG Station Juneau was met with an incredible chill! The temperature was by far the coldest we had seen yet. Station Juneau is situated right in downtown, at the base of two steep, snow drenched mountains, near the cruise ship terminal. The location was surreal!

Juneau is definitely a summer town, but the crew of RUSH found plenty to do. From skiing to hiking a glacier, the winter snow and freezing temperatures did not deter the crew

from finding plenty to keep them busy. The dining options ranged from burgers to sushi. Both nights, you could catch plenty of liberty goers dining at *The Hangar* or enjoying a little libation at any of the local watering holes. WAL-Mart was another favorite spot, but I recommend catching the bus for \$1.50 vice a \$21 cab ride.

The snow began to fall the first night we arrived. As the snow fell and the temperature dropped, the ship and surrounding area became a little hazardous for walking. LTJG McCor-

mack found out first hand that talking on your cell and walking on an iced over parking lot can be just as dangerous as driving and talking on a cell phone. Don't worry, she didn't break anything. But I think all who were around got a good laugh.

Just as quietly as RUSH arrived RUSH departed Juneau, to the waving hands of a few Station Juneau on lookers. Next stop, Kodiak. The only thing standing between us...The Gulf of Alaska. Stand by for heavy roles and SECURE FOR SEA!!!!

*"Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?"*

January 1, 2008 - It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone? Last New Year, Manzanillo, Mexico; This New Year Marmot Bay, Alaska. One can't get too more extreme than this! The funny thing was, the crew members on board RUSH felt comfort knowing that somewhere, someplace another Coast Guard unit was at sea too; An Air Force pilot was flying cross country with injured sol-

diers; A Marine was *dug-in* somewhere protecting his comrades. Again, the military mission know no's holiday's...Any place, any time!

To make things a little more distracting, the Morale Officer organized some activities that included games, karaoke, and Martinelli's sparkling cider to toast the new year with. For some, that was enough relief to

distract them from the monotony of underway life. 2008 is expected to be another exciting year for RUSH! The Command and Crew cannot wait until their return to Hawaii to give their loved ones that first kiss of the new year.

Kodiak, AK: AVDET and Fish School



CGC RUSH at the fuel pier in Kodiak, AK. Photo by OS3 Meyer

January 2, 2008 - RUSH joined her sister ship MUNRO, at her home port of Kodiak, AK for embarkation of the Aviation Detachment (AVDET) and a crash course in Alaska Fisheries Law Enforcement "Fish School." Kodiak Island, made mostly of mountainous terrain, is a fishing village located in the Gulf of Alaska. This stop would be the last chance for toiletries and personal snacks, before heading to the Bering Sea for 12-

days. For those members that were not attending Fish School, it was a working port call. Most of each day was spent checking and re-checking berthing areas and work spaces for items that could become missile hazards, as a result of the notorious waters we would soon be entering.

Once liberty was granted, those crew members that were not on duty were fighting for space in

the liberty van for a ride to town. Dining options were limited and if you didn't like seafood then you probably had a better chance of eating a meal on the ship.

The goal of Kodiak was AVDET and Fish School. Both were accomplished! So here we are now, floating around the Bering and enforcing the laws. I'd say we are earning our pay check!



Photo by YN2 Flowers



Photo by OSC Curcio



Photo by OSC Curcio



Photo by FS2 Johnson



Photo by SN Pepin

LCDR Clevenger: To my family and Friends- I Love You All and look forward to seeing you again soon! Love, Kathy :)

OS3 Stacy: Hello Ian, Zach, Mom, Dad, Annabelle, Cassie, and Matt. I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season and I wish you all the best in the coming year. I love you all. I hope to be able to visit soon.

YN3 Keogh: I'd like to say hi to the love of my life Pauline and to all the Keogh Family at home in Ireland.

SN Underwood: Love you Mom, Dad, Sam, Kristen, and Allie. Dad don't drive my Goldwing too much! See you all soon!

BM2 Seyler: To my wife and son love you guys and will be home soon.

OS3 Mahoney: To Mom and Dad, and Family and Friends. I miss you all want to thank all of you for your emails of encouragement. I can't tell you how much they help me get through the tough days. I will be home soon and can't wait to talk to everyone. I miss you all. Aaron

OS2 Pineda: Hey honey I love you so much baby and can't wait to see you and Alyssa again. Every thing here is going good. Still counting down the days!! LOVE YOU BABY!!!!

DCC Hayes: For my lovely wife, my 3 sons, the mutts and 'the rat,' I am so proud of you all for you've been doing to host exchange students, our visiting relatives and for just working hard to get along.

DCC Hayes: For my PIBC Ohana, thanks for all the prayer support and for looking after my wife and kids while I am away. I am missing AWANA and am anxious to get back to the Cubbies.

OS3 Gonzales: Hi Steph the patrol is going just great! Cant wait to come home and see you on the pier, love you and miss you!!

OS3 Gonzales: Hey Gonzales family just want to say Happy New Year and I'll be home in May. Love you all - Josh

MK1 Lowery: To Sally, Ashley, Alexis, and Anna, I love you all and can't wait to come home and give you a big hug and maybe get a back rub!! Love, Lee

ET3 Messina: To Nikki and Jos :: The weather is here. Wish you were nice...I mean here! All my love! Scott

SN Sanchez: To my mom, pops and grandma, thank you for the continuous support. To my brother's and sister, I miss busting jokes and fighting with you all! Hahaha! To the rest of my family and loved ones, miss you all and love you all!

OS3 Yeager: I am not lost just far from home; in Alaska's ice cold waters I must roam. Thoughts of loved ones keep me warm, as the ship rocks with the storm. Still, as I hold you in my heart, I know we are never truly apart.

EM1 Olsen: To my beautiful wife I love you and miss you very much I can't wait to see you. To my fam I love you and miss you too. To my boys the Pats are going all the way!

SN Bakkala: First and for most I would like to say I Love You to the woman of my dreams, Anna Buchanan! I would also like to say what's up to all my family back in Mt. Vernon W.A. Mom, Dad, Corey, Shawn, Trina, Tony, Joshua, Mike, Hunter, Melissa; I miss you guys! And a loud shout out as well to my father, Norman Bakkala and Holly Guzman of Juneau, A.K. What Up!?

IT3 Lopez: Hi Kanoel! Daddy will be home soon! Next stop...Disneyland! To my friend and family in So Cal, thanks for being part of this journey. I will see you soon. JR, thanks for all the help bro. Janel, thank you. Kerbeast, stay cute as always.

OS3 Meyer: To all my thug's brada's, and loved ones I wish you an incredible rad and prosperous new year, peace!

DC2 Jiminez: Happy Birthday Whit! Next time no hang up the phone on me Haviti. See you two soon.

MK1 Paris: Janel and Kylie - I love you and miss you two a lot. I cant wait to be home.

OS2 Ford: I'd like to shout out to the RAF (Royal Air Force). Yo, yo, get me bout 4 ham sticks and I get you da broom. Love ya. I see you pre-mortem.

SN Lopez: Sgt 1st Class Pedro Lopez and Judy Lopez - I love you and I'll see you soon. Also to Tiffany Garcia. Thanks for all the emails and making me smile, I'll be back soon.

MKCS Carlson: Andrea, Tyler, and Lia. Thanks so much for holding the fort down while I'm gone. Andrea, I love you and can't wait until our trip to the big island. Tyler, have a wonderful 21st B-Day, we'll celebrate when I return, Lia good luck in Florida remember "have fun".

CWO Craighead: Hello Craighead Clan...get the beach chairs and sunscreen ready; I can see the light at the end of the tunnel!! Miss you all terribly, LOVE DAD

CWO Jefferys: Pam, Chase and Serena, I love you guys and hope you are enjoying the snow back home. Chase nice hat trick. Serena keep up the skiing. Miss you Love Dad



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USCGC RUSH is the ninth of the Hamilton Class High Endurance Cutters. It was commissioned on November 16, 1968 in New Orleans, LA.

USCGC RUSH is the fifth Coast Guard Cutter to be named after the eight Secretary of Treasury, Richard Rush. A member of John Quincy Adams' cabinet from 1825-1828, Secretary Rush is best remembered for his accomplishments as a statesman and diplomat.

Presently, maritime law enforcement is one of RUSH's major missions throughout the entire Pacific Ocean, from Alaska to South American to Asia. RUSH patrols and conducts boarding's to ensure compliance with International and U.S. laws. RUSH also performs Search and Rescue missions to protect life and property at sea.

CREW ACHIEVEMENTS

Promotions To:

LTJG Rebecca Boice
LTJG Tyler Heffner
LTJG Katherine Lappe
LTJG Grant Pagarigan
LTJG Nicholas Woessner
FS2 Curtis Johnson
FN Philip Gavalton
SN Timothy Batterson

Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation

SK2 Joseph Daigle

The Coast Guard Achievement Medal

BM3 Robert Miller
Letter of Commendation
BM1 Michael Tapp
Cuttermen
MK1 Albert Lowery

Good Conduct Award:

YNC Julie Gunderson (6th)
BM1 Michael Tapp (3rd)
SKC Mark Tahtinen (2nd)
MK2 Paul Lunsford (2nd)
ET2 Evan Samelo (1st)
OS2 Joshua Mixon (1st)

NEXT ISSUE, 18 FEBRUARY 2008!